



STAMFORD
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

February 17, 2022

Testimony supporting Bill No. 5033, An Act Addressing the Needs of Food-Insecure Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education.

To Senator Slap, Representative Elliot, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

My name is Nahum Valiente, I am a student and the Vice President of the University of Connecticut Stamford Campus Student Government Association, I'm from Bridgeport Connecticut, and I stand in support of **Raised Bill No. 5033, AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Food insecurity is a persistent issue seen on all UConn campuses. However, Stamford students experience even greater struggles when it comes to food security. According to UConn's Report on Food Insecurity from February 2020, 67% of respondent students reported either low or very low food security. The fact is, Stamford students are experiencing high rates of food insecurity, a concern that can no longer be looked over.

Many students already have challenges to face in College. Having students worry about if they can afford their next meal or where they can get their meal is a burden that must be lifted from them. Countless times, students request and rely on our organization to host programming that would provide food for them. It has become apparent that this issue has become a substantial concern for our students.

The Bill Raised today would not only bring relief to our organization in meeting the demands of our students but also relief to students on their well being. Food insecurity has evolved into an issue that is far too great to be handled alone in our respective campuses. For this issue to be truly covered, it requires not only our institutions to look into these problems but also for students to have access to more resources to provide aid for their needs regarding food security.

UConn Stamford's high rating of low food security is a concern that must be met with the utmost attention from the State Legislature and Public Institutions of higher education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nahum Valiente

Vice President of UConn Stamford's Student Government Association